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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

A. M. CARR, R.N., DEPARTMENT EDITOR

National Organization for Public Health Nursing

AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION TO HOLD HEALTH INSTITUTE

ONE of the features of the fiftieth annual meeting of the American Public Health Association this year is to be a Health Institute. It will be held in New York City from November 8 to 11, the convention itself taking place the following week, November 14 to 18.

The purpose of this Institute is to afford to public health workers an opportunity to see the operation of established methods applicable to various phases of public health, as the hygiene of mother and child, public health nursing, vital statistics, social work, sanitary engineering, laboratory procedure, control of communicable diseases, mental hygiene and industrial hygiene. The Institute is sponsored by the American Public Health Association, the Health Department of the City of New York, the New York State Department of Health, the United States Public Health Service, and the National Health Council, with the coöperation of a hundred other organizations.

An interesting programme has been arranged. The section on Public Health Nursing has as its chairman Elizabeth Gregg of the New York City Health Department. The following are the tentative plans for the demonstrations to be presented in this section. In addition there will be opportunities to visit other institutions and clinics:

November 8—School Medical Inspection: (a) Morning inspection, (b) Routine class room inspection, (c) Physical examination, (d) Consultation of parents. Also Little Mothers' League, Health League, and various clinics, as dental, eye, sight conservation, etc. Community health work of the Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor, including nursing activities.

November 9—Cardiac and other special classes, public schools; machinery of City Health Department for isolation and quarantine; East Harlem Health Center, opening ceremonies and demonstrations of neighborhood health work, 343 E. 116th Street.

November 10—Pre-natal clinic and Baby Health Station Service, City Department of Health; Visiting nurse services, bedside care and instruction, obstetrical, and contagious services of the Henry Street Settlement.

November 11—All day trip and visit at Lederle Laboratories, Pearl River, N. Y.

November 12—A boat trip around Manhattan Island is being arranged for all stations.

The headquarters of the Institute will be either in the Conference Room of the National Health Council, 370 Seventh Avenue, or the Hotel Astor, depending

on the number of enrollments. A nominal fee, amounting to not more than \$10 will be charged. A special News Letter giving a complete programme and description of the Institute is being issued by the American Public Health Association. Further information can be obtained from Dr. D. B. Armstrong, National Health Council, 370 Seventh Avenue, New York City.

A STUDENT NURSE'S IMPRESSIONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

By Helen Daly, Butler Hospital Training School, Providence, R. I.

AFTER six weeks' affiliation with the Providence District Nursing Association, the student nurse finds herself on the threshold of the vast and important field of Public Health Nursing. To have this branch of the profession included in the training school course affords the student an exceptional opportunity to get at least a glimpse of what is going on in this department of nursing.

The patient, with his home surroundings, presents a vastly different picture from the patient in a hospital ward, and it is with more or less difficulty that we arrange methods to equal the hospital routine. Not only must we consider the care of the patient, but we must tactfully approach other members of the family to gain their confidence and coöperation. We soon learn to be keen in gaining information concerning social and economic problems which invariably complicate illness in the family. Then comes our opportunity to preach the gospel of "hygiene and sanitation" and in so doing we must always consider the mental equipment of the patient. Having received the greater part of my training in a hospital for mental and nervous diseases, symptoms of mental or nervous disorder always seem more or less prominent. It is indeed interesting to note the psychic changes that accompany many illnesses, and one can readily appreciate the necessity of further development of mental hygiene. The work, as a whole, is most gratifying and tangible results are very impressive.

Although six weeks is a brief period in which to view the broad expanse of Public Health Nursing, it is at least sufficient to stimulate one's interest in the activities of this rapidly developing field.

ITEMS

THE Providence District Nursing Association has recently prepared an "Outline of Pupil Nurses' Training in Public Health Nursing." Aim, Methods in General, Detail of Schedule and Daily Routine are taken up in detail. This outline has been carefully worked out and is the result of years of experience in giving to students in training schools during a brief period the best that an excellently organized District Nursing Association can provide.

ONE of the resulting advantages of "that practical experiment in coördination," the combination of headquarters of health agencies at the Pennsylvania Terminal Building, 370 Seventh Avenue, New York City, has been the showing of several new films in the Conference Room to members of the organizations

and their guests, with the idea of getting expert criticism on the details and structure of the films. The National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness recently put on the screen two motion pictures, now ready for release. "Through Life's Windows" shows faithfully and dramatically the structure of the eye and the reasons for correcting defects by the use of glasses. "Saving the Eyes of Youth" will consist of three reels, the first of which was shown. This takes up "Care of the Babies' Eyes," and brings in the need for general knowledge of the importance of early care, the existence of clinics, the educational work of Maternity Centers, Little Mothers' Leagues and other helps. The second reel will deal with saving the sight of children of pre-school and school age. The third will show the possibilities of a sight saving class for the education of children with seriously defective vision.

"The Reward of Courage," the first film dealing with the cancer problem, is now ready. This has been very carefully prepared under the direction of the American Society for the Control of Cancer, and subjected to searching analysis and criticism, the popular dislike to plain discussion and presentation on cancer kept constantly in mind. The dramatic appeal is quite strong. This is a precursor of other pictures which will take up special phases of the whole problem. Viewing these films, one realizes what a power the silent drama may be, applied to the enlightenment of the appalling ignorance that still exists on both unnecessary blindness and unrecognized perils of cancer.

THE Annual Report of the American Child Hygiene Association has just been issued. The report contains such a wealth of material touching every phase of child welfare, it is difficult to pick out special papers for mention. Herbert Hoover contributes, *A Programme for American Children*; Dr. Lottie G. Bigler, *Expectant Mothers in Rural Regions*; Zoe La Forge, *How Can a Public Health Nurse Organize Rural Infant Clinics?* The mental health of the child, health education, the economy of a proper knowledge of nutrition, and the round-table discussions of many problems make this volume of peculiar value.

WITH the question of disease conditions unavoidably the predominant idea in the life of the student nurse, a daily reminder of health might not come amiss. The National Child Health Organization furnishes this in a delightful fashion. *Happy's Calendar*, written by Cliff Goldsmith and illustrated by Jessie Gillespie, is a pleasant way indeed of having those simple "health habits" which we should all know, and so constantly neglect, kept before us. We can picture a student nurse in possession of one of these charming calendars, taking all sorts of piquant suggestions to her delighted patients. "Misery loves company—if it isn't a doctor," "Brushing the teeth twice a day won't wear them out," "Take a shower now and then and avoid looking like a storm," "Even a soft-boiled egg has a little iron in it," "Laughing is a far better exercise than kicking." Every sort of hygiene you perceive, and joyously illustrated. Can be obtained from 370 Seventh Avenue, New York.

MARY BEARD, director since 1912 of the Instructive District Nurses' Association of Boston, and for nearly three years president of the National Organization for Public Health Nursing, has resigned from the Boston association. Miss Beard expects to spend a year abroad and is now in Italy.